

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
WILLIAM D. BERNIER AND NINE
OTHER BRAVE AMERICANS

HON. STEVE DAINES

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, on April 10th, 1944, as many as 60 B-24 Liberators from the Fifth Air Force attacked enemy anti-aircraft targets and airfields on the northern coast of New Guinea.

One of those heavy bombers, known as "Hot Garter," was hit by flak and went down with its crew of 12. On board was First Lieutenant William D. Bernier from Augusta, Montana.

The remains of nine of these brave Americans, including First Lieutenant Bernier were determined to be "unrecoverable" but due to technological advances, his remains were recently identified and will soon be at rest in Montana.

It is the solemn duty of our nation to not leave any behind who have made the ultimate sacrifice. On behalf of the state of Montana, thank you to those who worked diligently to bring William home.

COMMENDING PRIME MINISTER
NAJIB RAZAK OF MALAYSIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia for his leadership in negotiating the release of the remains of the victims killed in the downing of flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

Prime Minister Najib held a series of secret talks with the separatists to broker an agreement for the return of the bodies and the promise of safe passage for recovery teams going to the crash site. He also secured the return of the black boxes of flight MH17 so that a full investigation may ensue.

Prime Minister Najib's personal involvement in the negotiations sets the standard for diplomacy around the world. I commend Prime Minister Najib for not leaving negotiations to aides.

Some matters in life are sacred, and I am pleased that Prime Minister Najib recognized this situation as such. I thank him for setting aside politics for a higher purpose—to return the bodies of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters to the families who lost and loved them. I praise him for doing what others would not or could not.

My thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been affected by this tragedy. After a full and fair investigation, I am hopeful that those responsible will be held accountable.

HONORING RICH SALVESTRIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rich Salvestrin, the re-

cipient of the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2014 Agriculturist of the Year Award. Mr. Salvestrin has been, and continues to be, a tireless advocate and fierce supporter of agriculture in the Napa Valley. It is therefore appropriate that we recognize and thank Mr. Salvestrin today for his unwavering support and relentless efforts to preserve and promote agriculture in Napa County.

Mr. Salvestrin was born and grew up in St. Helena, California. His education in agriculture began at an early age. By the time he was ten, he was helping his father and grandfather prune vines on the family vineyard. Mr. Salvestrin went on to attend California State University, Fresno, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Viticulture. After completing his degree, Mr. Salvestrin returned to his family's vineyard, where he applied his education and experience to expand the family business from a grape growing operation to include winemaking.

Mr. Salvestrin has worked with the Napa County Farm Bureau for nearly three decades to advance agriculture in the Napa Valley. Soon after joining the Bureau in 1985, Rich joined the Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher Program, where he completed the Ag Leadership program in the early 1990s. Rich began serving on the Napa County Farm Bureau's Board of Directors in 1994 and notably, he served as the president of the Napa County Farm Bureau from 1999–2001.

Rich has been a leader in protecting the Napa Valley's farmland and watersheds. He was a crucial supporter of the Napa Green/Fish Friendly Farming Program. He also serves as a board member on the Napa County Winegrape Pest & Disease Control District. And as a member of the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Action Team, he helped to control an invasive species that threatened the region's livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Salvestrin's leadership in the wine industry and viticultural preservation is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him further success in an already distinguished career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 439–441, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall No. 439, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 440, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 441, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY HAROLD

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Shirley Harold for her hard

work and determination in the fight to keep young kids safe around water.

In March 2008, Ms. Harold experienced the pain no parent or grandparent should ever have to. Her 2-year-old grandson J'Mari drowned in a swimming pool.

Since then, her goal has been to educate her community on the importance of swimming lessons, CPR and layers of protection to prevent drowning.

In 2007, I ushered through Congress the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, the first federal pool and spa safety law on the books in our country.

This law has a specific focus on public swimming pools, which is a key component in the fight against accidental drowning.

But we all know that many of these tragedies are occurring in residential swimming pools as well, which VGB does not cover.

Despite our best efforts to find common sense solutions to these preventable tragedies, we are collectively frustrated and disappointed that we haven't been able to get a better handle on how to resolve what we believe is a preventable crisis.

We have already experienced 7 drowning deaths among children 0–4 years of age in Broward County this year. And that doesn't include the near-drowning victims.

It pains me to say that Florida is leading the nation in drownings under age 14, with 32 deaths between January and May occurring statewide. At this time last year there were 14 deaths.

Since J'Mari's death in 2008, Shirley has become a fierce advocate for pool safety. On Saturday, July 26, her foundation, J'Mari and Friends is holding a community forum. Parents and children will learn CPR and drowning prevention tips.

I commend Shirley's commitment in her dedication to teaching young children to swim.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES LEE
MILLER, SR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. James Lee Miller was born and raised in Tutwiler, Mississippi. He was educated in the Mississippi public school system during the 1930's and 1940's. He was baptized, attended the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and sung with the Delta Big Four Quartet.

In 1947, James married Ms. Essie Davis and they were blessed with four sons. He later united with Charlene Davies and to that union another four children were born. In the midst of his family life, James continued school, became a certified electrician and worked for local electric companies.

For over forty-five years James Miller, Sr. was a businessman and was well-known around Chicago. He was involved in the social entertainment business and that is where many people knew him.

His nightclub, The Texas Lady Lounge, was for many years one of the most popular spots in the community.

As a matter of fact for ten years I lived less than four blocks from the Texas Lady and it was not at all unusual for me and my friends

to have our discussions in the lounge over a glass of water, or whatever else we might be drinking.

I have been told that one's impact on the world is measured not only by what they bring but also by what they leave and Mr. James Miller has left a great impact and tremendous legacy, a devoted wife, twelve children, a host of grandchildren, relatives and friends. Prominent among them great preachers and leaders, Johnny Miller, Rev. Dr. Matthew Miller, Pastor Leon Miller and a great hands-on physician whose office I have used Dr. James Miller, Jr.

The Miller family is cherished in our community and this could not have happened without the life and the legacy of Mr. James Miller, Sr., born December 9, 1929.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 25, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In 1974, Congress—with bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon—established LSC to be a major source of funding for civil legal aid in this country. LSC is a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs, with nearly 800 offices serving every congressional district and U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. These low-income Americans are women seeking protection from abuse, mothers trying to obtain child support, families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, seniors defending against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits.

It is LSC-funded attorneys who help parents obtain and keep custody of their children, assist parents in enforcing child support payments and help women who are victims of domestic violence. In fact, three out of four legal aid clients are women, and legal aid programs identify domestic violence as one of their top priorities.

Given the vital role played by LSC-funded attorneys, we need to do better than turn away more than 50 percent of eligible clients who seek assistance because of lack of LSC program resources. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. On this anniversary, I salute the Legal Services Corporation and LSC-funded attorneys for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. Every

day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.

STRENGTHENING CHILD WELFARE RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act. As a co-chair of the Foster Youth Caucus and a former foster parent, I am grateful for this legislation, as it recognizes a terrible and undeniable truth about our child welfare system.

Statistics show that foster children are highly vulnerable to being sexually trafficked. This bill will lay out needed provisions to identify and track victims within the already existing National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems and ensure that each state is not only prepared to spot the signs of victimization, but also adequately help those who have been rescued.

This bill is an important step in coordinating state and federal efforts and resources, to give victims the necessary individualized care, and to stop this terrible assault on children.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) as they celebrate their 40th anniversary this Friday, July 25th.

In 1974, Congress established LSC to better ensure equal access to justice under the law. LSC was created with bipartisan support, and the authorizing legislation was signed into law by President Nixon. The goal of the program from the outset has been to ensure access to civil legal assistance to those who are otherwise unable to afford it. LSC does this by distributing federal funding to local legal aid providers who in turn use the funding to address the needs of our constituents. Today, the LSC distributes funding to 134 local providers who have offices in every congressional district in our nation, as well as in the U.S. territories.

The programs make a vital difference in the lives of millions of ordinary Americans each year. Lawyers funded by LSC help families facing unlawful evictions, women seeking protection from abuse, veterans seeking benefits, seniors defending against consumer scams, and mothers seeking child support. In my home town of New York City, LSC funding also provided crucial assistance to low-income individuals who faced problems as a result of Superstorm Sandy and had nowhere else to turn.

For all the good work that LSC-funded programs do, there is still more to be done. LSC

funded entities are forced to turn away 50 percent of eligible individuals seeking assistance. This gap, known as the justice gap, shows that we have come a long way, but we must do more to ensure there is adequate funding for LSC and the programs that they serve. As a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight to increase funding for this worthy program.

Mr. Speaker, justice should not be limited only to those who can afford it. Equal access to our justice system is at the essence of our democracy. Our court system should allow everyone who has a legitimate grievance to pursue justice with the best possible representation. For the past 40 years, LSC and all of its grantees have helped ensure that our nation lives up to these ideals. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating LSC for their good work over the past 40 years.

PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. This bill advances child welfare policy in many important ways. For over a decade, I have advocated via the Stronger Families Act or the Investing in Permanency for Youth in Foster Care Act that federal policy should incentivize permanency for all foster youth regardless of how they exit care—adoption, guardianship, or reunification. I am especially pleased that H.R. 4980 takes a tremendous step forward in recognizing guardianship as an important permanency option for foster children who cannot return home. For the first time, the bill provides incentives for states for placing foster children with legal guardians.

Guardianship and kinship caregiving are very significant for Chicago, for Illinois, and for the African American community. My Congressional District has the highest percentage of children living with grandparent caregivers in the nation, followed closely by two other Congressional Districts in Illinois. Nearly 400,000 children make up our nation's foster care population, with more than one in four (approximately 28%) of these vulnerable children living with a grandparent or other relative. Research clearly shows that kinship foster care families are safer, more stable placements that are more likely to keep children connected with their siblings and communities than non-relative placements.

Adoption is not a viable option for many children to exit foster care, with courts explicitly ruling out this option for thousands of children each year. Moreover, adoption is not equally availed by families of all races and ethnicities, especially those in African-American and Native-American communities. Research—including a report by the Government Accountability Office—indicates that African American children stay in foster care longer because of difficulties in recruiting adoptive parents and a hesitancy to terminate parental rights, as is required for adoption. Importantly,